



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 22 OIF

16 October 2003



Editor

1AD soldiers will appear on David Letterman's Top 10 tomorrow night, Friday Oct. 18 at 2330 on AFN Atlantic. They will be in front of 2BCT headquarters.

If there is anyone who would like to receive this by email simply drop me a line and I will add you to the distribution list. ted.m.preister@us.army.mil

CPT Ted M. Preister

BCT Rear-D Commander

GHOSTS

Out the Palace gate and past the lion's cage, literally a stone's throw away is an asset that Ghost Troop regularly uses to maintain its cutting edge: McCleary Range. In comparison to the ranges in Germany, McCleary- with its 25 meter distance from firer to target- is diminutive. However, its small size makes it that much more appealing for Close Quarters Battle training- in which small distances and quick reactions are paramount.

Ghost Troop utilizes infantry marksmanship doctrine as a guideline for training, as well as some improvisation. 2LT Brian Dowd, the White Platoon Leader, erects mock walls and doors on the range to help simulate being on a raid. On practicing for a raid, the troopers work on rapid target acquisition and maintain muzzle awareness so that they are not aiming at each other. They must accurately shoot from a run or any turning movements.

Besides firing the standard M-4, Ghost Troopers enjoy familiarizing themselves with the AK-47's and RPK's that are used by foe and ally alike. Placing the AK-47 on automatic and firing a 30 round burst makes a Trooper feel closer his Iraqi brethren and lets him blow off a little bit of steam. All in the name of training.

CONQUERERS

As expected this month, we continue to say goodbye to a lot of our leaders. This month an invaluable asset, SSG Johnson, is departing on the 30th. He has worked extremely hard as the Battalion Family Readiness Liaison (FRL) to ensure that we took care of the Conqueror Families. His presence and leadership will truly be missed. Let me take this chance to publicly thank you for all your hard work

and dedication. At the same time we also welcome SGT George and SGT Tasker as two new FRLs recently sent back from Baghdad to work everything for the conqueror families in Bravo and Charlie Companies respectively. All of our FRLs are doing great work to keep the families informed and help them with their needs while their spouses are deployed. Their mission is just as important as the mission in Baghdad.

Other soldiers we will say goodbye to this month are: **A Company** - SSG Graham; **B Company** - SSG Preston; SSG Jimenez; SGT Harris; SGT Froberg; SGT Drayton; **C Company** - SSG Woodard; SPC Johnston; **A/2-6 Infantry** - SSG Roberson; SGT Vega-Hernandez; SPC Arauz; SPC Herrera; SPC Metzger; SPC Segovia; **HHC** - SFC Barron; SSG Jobe; SGT Grant; SGT Patino; SGT Theodore; SGT Grace; SGT Leo; SPC Leonard; SPC Barnes; SPC Jaimez; SPC Johnson; SPC Shephard; SPC McEntire; and SSG Wallace. Best of luck to these soldiers and their families! See you on the high ground.

By now everyone has seen some of the leave personnel come back to Baumholder. At the present rate about 41% of the Task Force will be able to take a two-week leave. We continue to hope that we will get more slots but for now this will probably be it. I know there is concern about the lottery system but the companies all did lotteries to draw names from a hat to ensure an equal probability for everyone to go home on leave. All soldiers were eligible; both single and married soldiers had equal possibility of getting leave. Some of the leaders, under no pressure or expectation from the chain of command, have deferred their slot to ensure their soldiers got a better chance to come home.

We continue to get at least 24 slots for the 5 day pass to Qatar. Everyone who is not lucky enough to draw leave will be afforded the opportunity to go to Qatar at least once. If they choose not to go to Qatar, arrangements will be made to get them time off up in Baghdad to simply sleep, use phones, internet, and watch movies. Our single soldiers are taking advantage of the pass to Qatar and the ones returning recently have said that it is "pretty good and the break away from Baghdad was welcomed." Morale among the soldiers is good. Down at this





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level they are seeing their hard work pay off and the Iraqi people, for the most part, want to help us and help themselves.

Our National Guard Company, C/2-124 IN, from Florida is still working on getting their official orders straight to stay here with us for a whole year. They will depart in Feb 04, which is a year from when they landed in theater to start the war. We are working with the National Guard Bureau for them to get new ID cards, extend DEERS, etc. They are doing a fantastic job and are a welcome addition to the Conqueror Task Force. They are conducting missions in conjunction with soldiers from A/2-6 IN and A/1-35 AR. Several of these soldiers have already lost their businesses or jobs, but they still want to stay and finish the mission with the unit.

RUMOR CONTROL ...

- **We are having a little trouble with MCI phones.** We lost the ability to make morale calls for a while. The trunk could not handle the number of calls so they shut down the phones for an undetermined amount of time. Internet may be the best we can do for a short while. Both Brigade and Division are working the problem rapidly to get phone banks in here.

- **We are no longer working as long of hours** with very little break. We have closed several checkpoints and each company is now able to set a schedule that is nowhere near as demanding as it has been all summer long. We are also getting back out and patrolling which the soldiers enjoy much more than standing a checkpoint. There is down time for the soldiers with Internet, TVs (w/ AFN), KBR dining facility with ice cream and desserts.

- **When BIAP opens, the increase in flights will not mean an increase in leave.** As much as this would be a great rumor, this has not been passed down from anyone in the chain of command.

- **Everyone who gets a RED CROSS message is an Emergency Leave case.** This is not true. Red Cross messages are also sent to inform soldiers on family members as well. A Red Cross message does not necessarily qualify a soldier to be placed in CAT I for leave (Example – wife's sister is having surgery – family requests presence

of soldier even though incident is not life threatening). The category was made to cover the difference between theater and Army policy.

- **KBR food is on line as of 10 October.** The KBR Dining Facility opened this last week and it is a welcomed change in food. The food is pretty good and a much better selection. There go all the diets!

- **Soldiers who have family members back in Germany can cancel Delta Dental Plan.** DDP is still good if you plan on getting work done on the German economy but not needed for appointments on post. This will save you \$20 per month. Obviously, family members who are back in CONUS for the year need to keep it to get work done at an approved provider.

- Our VTC is coming this next week. Will send a word back when we confirm date and exact time. It is a large block of time

That's all until next time – **LTC Lane**

Soldier Gains New Outlook On Deployment

By: 2LT Lucas Sparks, Charlie Company, 1ST BN, 35TH Armor Regiment

SGT Casey Wilkes is assigned to Charlie Company, 1-35 AR. As a member of Task Force 1-35, SGT Wilkes and his platoon has worked numerous hours providing security for the Iraqi people by conducting checkpoint and patrol operations. This fact alone may not distinguish him from many soldiers in the coalition who are "soldiering on" while deployed to Central Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. What makes SGT Wilkes stand apart, however, is his renowned appreciation for the children of Iraq.



SGT Casey Wilkes poses with one of the many children who come to his checkpoint.





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SGT Wilkes is expecting the birth of his first child in October. Every father wants to be present for the birth of his child, but SGT Wilkes may or may not experience the birth of his firstborn due to his deployment. Although it is uncertain if he will, the fact that he will soon be a proud father has helped him better relate with the Iraqis he encounters, especially those with young children. SGT Wilkes states that, "Being a father gives you a new outlook. You see little kids and you just want to make them feel good. I look forward to seeing my own baby soon, but right now I just want these little Iraqi children to know that we care."

His new love for children through this experience has helped relax families that have entered checkpoints, and that have been encountered on patrols. Many young children have truly enjoyed the presence of the coalition soldiers, but there are always those who cannot seem to get over their fear of soldiers providing security. SGT Wilkes has done what he can to ease their fears, including offering candy. He has gotten down on one knee to speak with them. He has done just about everything one can do to make a young child feel welcome in an environment that is not so enticing for a scared little boy or girl.

SGT Wilkes has been able to grasp the scope of his mission in Iraq. He knows that the more at ease coalition forces can make the citizens of Iraq, including the children, the easier the mission will become. Making a few kids smile at a checkpoint is a small piece of the mission, but it may in some way demonstrate the commitment of Coalition Forces to helping the Nation of Iraq. The expectation of his first child has allowed SGT Wilkes to accomplish his mission in Iraq through understanding the importance of communication with the Iraqi people, including the children.

Birthday wishes to:

17 Oct SGT Carter

21 Oct SSG Dooley

21 Oct Jason Frankenberg

Anniversary wishes to:

20 Oct Jeremy & Sarah Wellman

1/35 Events:

- Charlie Company 1/35 will be having a FRG meeting at the bowling alley on 21 October. 18:30.

GATORS

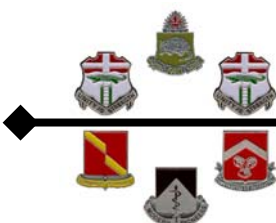
In the early hours of 1 October, 2003 TF 2-6 IN conducted a raid in the Sindabad district of Baghdad. The morning's target was a group high ranking officials from Saddam Hussein's regime suspected of living in the area. The raid succeeded in capturing LTC Akmed Kasim Dawood, as well as photographs and written records that proved valuable to coalition forces. The following account is of third platoon, Charlie Company, led by 2LT Doug Hoffman.

At 4:00 AM, life in Baghdad has come to a stand still. The air is thick, not quite oppressive, just heavy with the stale scent of decaying garbage and raw sewage drifting in on the breeze. During the early hours of the morning it is the little things, like the taste of the air come to the forefront of the conscious mind. A platoon leader checking his map, an interpreter in a checkered shirt and baseball cap smoking a cigarette, and a group of men are congregated around the tailgate of a HUMVEE. This odd collection of sights and sounds, more than actual events, stand out most in the memory. It is these seemingly insignificant subplots, rather than the main event itself, which are remembered years after the fact, and will form the basis for war stories in years to come.

The Raid

It is early Wednesday morning, and the men of Charlie Company are standing beside their vehicles, equipment on, weapons ready, waiting for word to depart Camp Muleskinner. The morning's destination is a group of houses situated two miles away. It is in this quiet neighborhood that the men hope to find high ranking officials from Saddam Hussein's regime. In the final minutes before departure last minute preparations are made, and equipment is double checked.

Halfway down the row of vehicles a group soldiers piled in the back of a HUMVEE receive final





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instructions from their squad leader. A little further on, the commander of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle double checks his radio, while a small knot of men congregate on the road below to tell jokes, and smoke a final cigarette. At last, a transmission goes out over the radio. The order is passed down to mount the vehicles and make ready to go.

The time is now 5:05 AM. The company commander, CPT John Prior, gives the order to initiate the raid. Third platoon is arrayed in a column on the road with one Bradley to the front, two HUMVEE's in the middle, and one Bradley bringing up the rear. The lead vehicle, commanded by the platoon sergeant, SSG Camron Richardson, picks up speed and barrels through the front gate of the compound. With a hollow clang, the cheep cast iron gate folds in on itself and the line of vehicles screams through the opening, headlights dancing off the choking clouds of dust.

Two guard have been hired to protect the main residence. The two men, along with a woman and two small children, have attempted to escape the stifling heat of their dilapidated shack by sleeping outside. As SSG Richardson's Bradley bears down on them, they sit erect. The interpreter in LT Hoffman's HUMVEE yells at them to put their hands in the air. The admonishment, however, is unnecessary. Dazed and confused, they pose no threat. Still stunned by their sudden awakening and blinded by the Bradley's headlights, the family staggers to their feet hands raised skyward.



SSG Camron Richardson in his Bradley Fighting Vehicle

The next snapshot is of the platoon crowded at the front gate. The night is dark, and the field of vision is

limited to what can be seen in the vehicles headlights. Looking at photographs of the house before the mission, the route to the main residence seemed straightforward. Now on the ground with the need for quick decisions weighing on LT Hoffman, the road leading to the house is not visible. A voice from the second HUMVEE prompts the platoon leader, and the decision to forgo the road and advance across the field in front of the house is quickly reached. The ground has been recently plowed, and the HUMVEEs bounce over the uneven terrain, tossing their cargos of soldiers about unmercifully.

The next scene is outside the house. Soldiers disembark from their vehicles, and are quickly taken under control by their team leaders. SSG James Patrick, the squad leader, imbued with a sense of urgency, hurriedly guides the men up to the objective.

The residence is surrounded and secured from the outside. It is amazing to watch the squad in action. Never once is their any question of who is in charge. Individual leaders physically emplace each soldier, until everyone is exactly where they should be. It is at this point that something completely unexpected enters the picture. While the men crouch around the home, rifles pointed at the doors and windows, the interpreter stands on the sidewalk, placing himself between the soldiers and the house. Seemingly oblivious to the fact that if shooting breaks out he will be caught in the cross fire, the interpreter stands, arms crossed watching the spectacle around him with detached curiosity.

Flash forward again. The outside of the house is secured, soldiers are banging on the front door, and the interpreter is yelling in Arabic for the occupants to come out. A light from a large bay window illuminates the houses darkened exterior. The door opens, and an overweight man reeking of alcohol stands unsteadily, silhouetted by the light issuing from inside the house. The man is quickly subdued, and a group of soldiers hurriedly enter the residence, emerging moments later with a woman and four children. The interpreter helps usher out a little boy, no more than eight years old, speaking to him softly in Arabic telling him that everything will be all right.





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The final scene is played out after SSG Patrick has made sure that no one remains in the house. Leaving the majority of his platoon outside to guard against any external threat, LT Hoffman takes a small group of men back into the building to search for weapons, important papers and any other evidence that will link the home's occupants with Saddam Hussein.



2LT Doug Hoffman poses with captured weapons

Under strict orders to guard against excessive property damage, the platoon begins a room-by-room search, looking through suitcases, drawers and closets, carefully ensuring no personal property is damaged. Weapons, cash and personal documents are catalogued and placed in bags to be taken in for further analysis. The men begin to relax, telling jokes and rehashing the mornings experiences.

By six AM the raid is over. All that remains is for the soldiers to conduct a thorough inspection of the compound and record their findings. For LT Doug Hoffman, SSG Camron Richardson and SSG James Patrick the mission has been a success. They have captured LTC Akmed Kasim Dawood, a small cache of weapons, and quantities of incriminating documentation. For these men the raid is one small step towards toppling what remains of Saddam Hussein's regime, a goal that will bring them closer to their eventual return home.

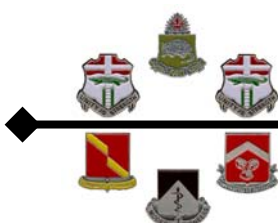
Anniversary wishes to:
20 Oct CPL & Dana Clark

REGULARS

- Haunted House 24, 30, 31 Oct from 18:00-20:00 in the 1/6 Conference Room
- Pizza and Piñata Party 31 Oct from 16:00-17:30 in the 1/6 Conference Room
- Dessert Night 27 Nov 18:00-19:00 in Conference Room

PIONEERS

- FRG Meeting 21 Oct, 1800 hrs @ Wagon Wheel Theater
- Fall Festival for Kids Tentatively Scheduled for Rhinelander Park on 26 Oct



"2nd BCT NEWSLETTER" For Previous editions go to
http://www.2bct.1ad.army.mil/2ndBCT/striker_newsletter.htm



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PIONEERS

For the Girls
By 2LT Kristin Morrow

The Al-Wiya, an all-girls orphanage in the heart of Baghdad, requested support from women as role models. The 47th Forward Support Battalion answered that calling.

Chaplain Terry Kesling explained that there are 6 orphanages in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2BCT) area, and the Division Chaplain continued with a program initiated by Civil Affairs and instituted a sponsorship program among units. The 47th FSB visits the girls of Al-Wiya about 3 times per month for about an hour each time, depending on security requirements.

The Al-Wiya houses between 40-60 girls, most of which have families but are at the 'group home' due to families' lack of financial provisions. It's to this sanctuary that 6-7 female US soldiers and 1 interpreter bring boxes of clothes, school supplies, and personal items sent by the FRG back in Baumholder, Germany. CPT Sonya Rowe states, "It's just part of the peacekeeping process."

The girls are gracious for the gifts, but mainly they desire the attention of the soldiers. 2LT Jenny Stewart laughs and says, "The girls are very interested in learning English. One girl was so excited to count to 10 that she kept messing up and starting over, and meanwhile, you've got another little girl turning your face to her for attention." CPT Rowe, who has participated in the Big Brother/Big Sister program in Hampton, Virginia, echoes the excitement of the girls in that they are very forthcoming and want to know everything. "Their first questions usually include, 'Are you married? What's your name? How old are you?' Sometimes they don't know the right words, so they stand next to one another and put sentences together as a collective effort."

Although only females are allowed in the Al-Wiya, SGT Roger Kennedy promptly volunteered to serve as the door-guard on the security team. With 5 kids back in Texas, he says community interaction like this "makes it worthwhile to be here away from family." But it's not just the girls that anticipate the 47th's visits, which always end with the resounding 'you come back tomorrow?' SPC Faith Switzer states that it's obvious "there's not a lot of human contact or affection here, but the girls are a wealth of it...it's pure emotion." She smiles, but along with SPC Johanna Landry, a preschool teacher, is disheartened because she will PCS soon. SPC Landry emphasizes the female experience because the girls are open with hugs and kisses. LT Stewart continues, "There is so much interaction for kids with male soldiers. They love to play with your hair and kiss your face. It just took some time to get them to say 'Miss' instead of 'Mister.'"



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RAMS

Since arriving in Baghdad nearly five months ago Charlie Company 40TH Engineer Battalion has seen many vast improvements in quality of life. For example when the unit first set up camp in the former republican guard palace there was no electricity, no showers, and most importantly to the soldiers, no phones or internet. Since that time local nationals and the engineers have been working side by side with Charlie Company's housemates, A/2-6 infantry, to make Baghdad a little more comfortable for all soldiers.

The first major problem the soldiers faced was electricity; there was no power to run the company's tactical operations center (TOC), which resulted in many warm nights outside monitoring the radio "Hohensfels style" for the company's headquarters section. This also caused the problem of very long nights after dark for the soldiers of Charlie Rock. "When the sunset it became to dark to do anything but sleep," says Spc Jason Smith a mechanic attached to Charlie Company.

But all this changed in mid June when the palace was hooked up to a massive generator by a local named Mohammed. Once hooked up to the generator the soldier's reading skills went into overdrive, that is until the first TV was purchased. That TV was soon followed by VCD players and satellite dishes, which allowed the now very motivated soldiers to watch the all important news channels.

But by far the most motivating quality of life upgrade that was made possible by the electricity was air conditioning. "It changed our lives forever" states company XO 1Lt Chris Conner "AC and AFN were the two biggest days of our deployment."

Another thing taken for granted at home that the soldiers soon missed, was the warm shower. Many soldiers never thought a warm shower in Baghdad would be all that important, a fact that they soon learned was very annoying, when two companies began to share one water hose as a shower. Originally it was a feat of engineering genius that led SSG Muhlhauser to run the water hose across the road and into a window to establish the welcomed shower. However it soon became clear that two

companies and one hose would not be enough. That is when Mohammed stepped up again. After hours of painstaking trial and error, water once again flowed through the pipes of the palace.

This solution too became short lived when the pipes, broken during the war, began to flood the basement. The third and final solution came from the ever present Brown and Root, who coordinated with A 2-6 Inf, to have two shower trailers delivered, complete with warm water (sometimes) and more than one shower head.

Perhaps after all this the most welcomed improvement came in the form of the computer and telephone. First came the telephone in the form of cell phones, either from civilian employees who happened to pass through checkpoints and offered their phone or from the rotational schedule of the battalion commander's own phone. Soon soldiers were able to talk to loved ones they had not heard from since Kuwait. Then came the long awaited Iraqi ran internet/phone café.

This most recent improvement, which will soon be upgraded from four computers to at least six, with more to follow, has provided soldiers with a small luxury that brings them a little closer to home. "The Internet costs \$2 an hour, and the phone 60 cents a minute but that's a small price to pay to get to talk to my family back home on a regular basis" says PFC Jeremy Bauer who frequents the café during his off hours.

Life in Baghdad is still not comparable to Baumholder, but with the help of Brown and Root, our infantry brothers, a local named Mohammed, and the 40th Engineer Battalion life is just a little more comfortable for the soldiers in Charlie Company then it was four and a half months ago.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Faith" from Touch of Grace, by Ch. Mark Johnston

Freud consigned it to the realm of delusion, and Marx believed it was a religious opiate to drug the hopeless. But Scripture tells us that "without faith, it's impossible to please God." Paul says our faith would be "in vain" if the promises and work of God, to include the Resurrection, were false. But because





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faith is based on the historical and factual basis of the Lord's redemptive work, God justifies those who believe and trust in Him!

There's a story of an atheist who inquired about the letters WWJD, sewn into wrist bands worn by Christians. The abbreviation for 'What Would Jesus Do?' prompted this atheist to create his own wristband with the lettering, WWAD, 'What Would an Atheist Do?' But he soon discovered that he didn't know what an atheist would do, especially in those situations that challenged him with the great questions of life! He became a seeker after God and is now a dedicated Christian and editor-in-chief of a prominent magazine that addresses the great blessings and beauty of faith!

Ironically, it's true faith that eliminates delusion. Faith is the stairway into the revelation of God. St Augustine wrote, "Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe." **Faith answers the great questions in life!**

The religious opiate that Marx so despised has become the lasting and good contribution of those faithful who labor for the underprivileged, the poor, the downtrodden and the sick. Martin Luther observed, "The true, living faith, which the Holy Spirit instills into the heart, simply cannot be idle." **Faith prompts the blessings of a civilization!**

More than a delusion or an opiate, faith is the basis for our salvation and for what we do or don't do in this world. Let's ask the question, WWFD, 'What would faith do?' And then demonstrate the answer!

Chaplain Mark Johnston encourages YOU to extend the Kingdom of Faith to our world!

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

Baumholder Chaplains are preparing care packages for single soldiers and **Need Your Help** to pack the boxes. **18 October from 10:00-14:00 at the HALL of CHAMPIONS**

BSB COMMUNITY CALENDAR

21 FALL CLEAN UP for all housing areas! All trash must be picked up, and grass must be cut.

Awards will be given to the cleanest buildings!

25 Mass Casualty Exercise – expect long waits at the gate!

26 Daylight Saving Ends, set time back 1 hour

26 Town Hall meeting, Rheinlander, 4pm

29 LINKS, Rheinlander, 10:00am

DoDDS CALENDAR

1st Tuesday of the month SAC Meeting, Baumholder High at 1630

3rd Thursday of the month SAC Meeting, Wetzel Elementary at 1430

31 Oct No School for Students, Teacher work Day

1 Nov Super Six High School Football Championships

5 Nov 1430 SAC Meeting, Neubruecke Elementary

6 & 7 Nov All Elementary will have Parent Teacher Conferences

7 Nov Baumholder High School will have Parent Teacher Conferences

17 Nov 1515 IAC Meeting, BSB Conference Room

18 Nov 1430 SAC Meeting, Smith Elementary

27 & 28 No School, Thanksgiving Recess

CYS

Halloween Carnival

25 October, 12:00-16:00 in the Rheinlander Ballroom for ages 3-10

Volunteers are needed for this event! Contact Cindy Shelley at 485-7003

Baumholder CYS has positions open for Child and Youth Program Assistants. Work with infants through teens! Starting salary is \$8.20 per hour and is based on experience. We offer FREE training and advancement opportunities! If you are interested in applying, please call DSN 485-6566.

Parents Night Out is November 15. Childcare will be provided by Smith dispensary or Smith SAS.

YOUTH EVENTS

18 Oct Middle School Costume Ball at the Underground for 6th – 8th graders, Time: 1900-2300, Cost: \$3

25 Oct High School/Middle School Dance and 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at the Hall of Champions for 6th – 12th graders, Time: 2000-2400.





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These free events are in support of Red Ribbon Week.

RHEINLANDER EVENTS

- Tuesday night KIDS' NIGHT with movies, board games, and a \$3.50-per-child menu!
- Indoor Garage Sale, 18 Oct, 0900-1600
Amy Gee at DSN 485-7507

Internet Access only 9 cents/minute in the Cyber Zone!!

OUTDOOR REC TOURS

- 16 Oct IKEA Shopping
- 18 Oct CentrO Mall
- 24-25 Oct Czech Crystal Shopping
- 25 Oct Metz Flea Market

POC: *Werner Graf at DSN 485-7182*

Staff are recruiting for volunteer trip leaders at Outdoor Recreation. Training and free admission on trips included!

HOST NATION SPONSORED EVENTS

- 17-27 Oct October market at Kaiserslautern
- 18-19 Oct Hobby artist exhibition, Brühlhalle Baumholder
- 21 Oct Wendel's market at St. Wendel
- 25 Oct Flea market at Metz, France
- 3 Nov Market at Kirn
- 8 Nov Flea market at Homburg/Saar
- 15&29 Nov Flea market at Metz, France
- 28 Nov Christmas market at Oberstein
- 29 Nov Christmas market at Reichenbach
- 29 Nov Christmas market at Berglangenbach
- 29 Nov Andreas market at Kirn

St. Martin Parades

- 09 November 2003: Kirn 1800
 - 10 November 2003: Baumholder 1700; Berglangenbach 1800; Leitzweiler 1730; Hahnweiler 1815; Hoppstaedten 1730;
 - 11 November 2003: Heimbach 1730; Rueckweiler 1700; Mettweiler 1800; Birkenfeld 1730
- POC:** *Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 485-1600*

BAUMHOLDER SPORTS & FITNESS

We are seeking certified (or willing to become certified) instructors for the following contractor positions:

Aerobics

Yoga

Pilates

Marshall Arts

POC: Warren Latham, 485-6575 or David Jefferson, 4857176

YOUTH WINTER SPORTS

Basketball – \$30 for first child, \$27 for second
Cheerleading – \$20 for first child, \$18 for second
Registration ends 5 Dec 03

Minimum 5 years old

Winter sports season: Practice starts in December
Games begin in January

BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

Register for TERM 2 classes with UMUC or CTC!
Remember to bring your financial aid forms!

Last day to register is 24 Oct (under special circumstances late registration can be arranged as late as 28 Oct). Please visit the Education Center in building 8332. Education Center is open from 0800-1700 HRS. Financial aid applications are available for the 2003-2004 school year. For more information, call 485-7557.

COLLEGE FAIR

The annual Kaiserslautern College Information Night will be held at the Kaiserslautern American High School on **Thursday, 23 October, from 6 until 8:30 pm**. Around 70 colleges and universities will be on hand at this event. Representatives will include both college staff members and European-based alumni. There will also be representatives at tables with information on some scholarship programs and other vocational interests.

This event is designed for and open to all high school aged students and their parents. It is an excellent opportunity to obtain first hand information on colleges and universities. If you are a parent of a high school student, please encourage him/her to put this event on their calendars. Also, please share this information as might be appropriate so that the event





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may benefit as many students and others who are considering college careers as possible.

CAR CARE

GERMAN AUTOMOBILE GARAGES, AFFES GARAGES, AND POV INSPECTION POINT OFFER A **FREE INSPECTION** DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER!

POV's are checked for safe tires, lights, wipers, and exhaust system. A sticker will be posted at the windshield, which shows that your car has successfully passed the inspection.

Are you getting ready to PCS or ETS? Do you need to ship your car back to the states? If so, we have the service for you! Baumholder Auto Skills Center PCS Car Cleaning will take care of cleaning your car and preparing it for shipping – one less thing for you to worry about! Just give us a call to set up your appointment! DSN 485-6344

Holiday Mailing Dates

These are the recommended dates to have Christmas cards, letters, and parcels placed in the mail to ensure proper delivery by Christmas Day.

FROM GERMANY TO CONUS

SAM PARCELS 20 November 2003, Thursday

PAL PARCELS 04 December 2003, Thursday

PRIORITY PARCELS 11 December 2003,

Thursday

FIRST CLASS LETTERS AND CARDS 11

December 2003, Thursday

EXPRESS MAIL 18 December 2003, Thursday

FROM GERMANY TO CENTCOM AOR

MPS PARCELS 20 November 2003, Thursday

SAM PARCELS 6 November 2003, Thursday

Mailing Guidance to CENTCOM AOR

While there is no specific limit to number of MPS packages mailed to CENTCOM AOR, patrons should take into consideration time, space availability, and resources to transport the mail. Helpful hints include:

- ❖ Recommend mailing 5 MPS packages per visit to ensure quicker processing of the mail at the finance windows.

- ❖ Appointments can be made at the local APO between the hours of 0800 - 0900 hours for personnel with more than 5 packages.
- ❖ Smaller parcels generally move quicker due to space availability as opposed to larger parcels, which has more space requirements.

Keep the mailing deadlines in mind when sending packages. Earlier is better.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICES

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FOR SPOUSES

If your spouse is currently deployed, but has received orders to relocate, then don't delay planning and organizing your move! You can take care of many move-related tasks before your spouse returns to Baumholder. The more you get done now, the less stressful your move will be. And, as an added bonus, you will have more quality time to spend together when the soldier returns from the deployment.

The Baumholder ACS invites all spouses to schedule individualized relocation planning consultations. Whether the service member is currently deployed or in Baumholder, spouses can obtain the same quality assistance as the service member. We will provide you with a comprehensive packet about your new location, as well as information to help you organize a smooth move. Relocation assistance is available whether the move is a PCS move or the service member is retiring or separating from the Army.

Please call ACS at 485-8188 or 06783-68188 for information and to schedule an appointment.

RE-INTEGRATION AFTER DEPLOYMENT

ACS is offering a class on Wednesdays that focuses on issues after the deployment. Free child care is available, and lunch is provided. Please call 485-8188 or 06783-68188 to reserve your seat!

